MULTI AWARD WINNING!

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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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February 7, 2025 • Vol. 6, Issue 250 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

Discover a powerful story of courage on the Harriet Tubman Byway p12

DID YOU KNOW?

- Harriet Tubman helped people escape slavery in the 1800s.
- The byway re-creates the route from Maryland to Pennsylvania.
- It has 45 stops where people can learn about her life.

Stop #3: *The Beacon of Hope* sculpture in Cambridge, Maryland

DID YOU KNOW?
The US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, opened in 1993 and has had more than 47 million visitors.

Holocaust survivors attend a ceremony at the Auschwitz memorial and museum on January 27.

Special exhibit opens

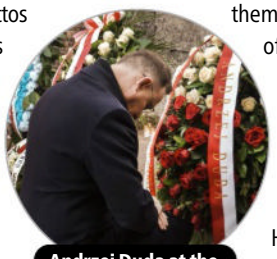
"Anne Frank the Exhibition" opened in New York City on January 27. It re-creates the space in Amsterdam, in the Netherlands, where Anne, a Jewish girl, hid from the Nazis with her family and kept a famous diary recording their experience. The exhibit is open through April 30, then will travel to other US cities.

Holocaust Remembrance Day marked

On January 27, International Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed with ceremonies around the world. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust and World War II (1939–1945).

What is the Holocaust?

The Holocaust was the mass killing of 6 million Jewish men, women, and children, as well as millions of others, by the German Nazi party, led by Adolf Hitler. It is one of the most terrible events in human history. Starting in the late 1930s and throughout World War II, the Nazis stormed across Europe, taking over countries and forcing Jewish people to live in ghettos (extremely crowded neighborhoods surrounded by walls, barbed wire, or fences). Jews were also sent to concentration camps (prisons), where millions were killed. The Holocaust ended with the defeat of the German military by the Allied powers, led by the US, the UK, and the Soviet Union (former nation made up of Russia and other countries).



Andrzej Duda at the event at Auschwitz

What is International Holocaust Remembrance Day?

In 2005, the United Nations (UN, a group of 193 countries) established the day to remember the Holocaust and honor its victims. It is held on January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest concentration camp, in 1945. About 1.1 million people were killed there, most of them Jewish. The commemoration bears special importance this year because it has been 80 years since the day Allied troops freed the last 7,000 prisoners who were being held at Auschwitz. The war officially ended in September 1945.

How was the day observed this year?

A remembrance event was held at Auschwitz, which is now a memorial and museum. Dozens of world leaders attended. Among them were President Andrzej Duda of Poland, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, President Emmanuel Macron of France, and King Charles III of the UK. A delegation of 11 people attended from the US. At the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, a livestream of the Auschwitz event was broadcast and the names of victims were read aloud at a ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.

How did Holocaust survivors participate?

There are about 220,000 living survivors, and more than 20% of them are older than 90. Because they are aging, this year is expected to be the last major milestone anniversary with many survivors present. About 50 survivors attended the ceremony at Auschwitz, placing candles and wreaths at the site, and four of them spoke. At the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, three survivors told their stories. A ceremony took place at UN headquarters in New York City, where survivor Marianne Miller said it was important to remember that the Holocaust "happened only 80 years ago." Standing before an audience of about 1,000 people, she said she came to share a message: "Rule the world with love and not hate."

Why is it important to remember the Holocaust?

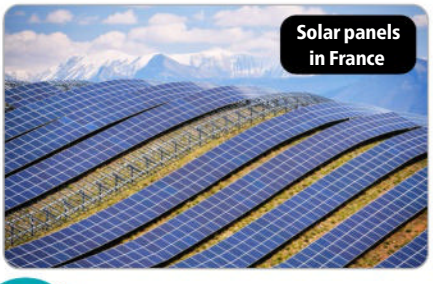
Remembering the Holocaust honors those who died and those who survived. It is also vital for ensuring that history does not repeat itself. That is especially important now, as incidents of antisemitism (hostility or prejudice against Jewish people) continue to rise in the US and around the world. "To allow the Holocaust to fade from memory would dishonor the past and betray the future," said UN Secretary General António Guterres. "Each of us has a solemn duty to speak up against hate and to stand up for the human rights of all." Speaking at Auschwitz, Duda said, "We must never forget" the Holocaust. "May the memory of all the dead live on. May they rest in peace."

Europe reaches energy milestone

A report released on January 23 found that the European Union (EU, a group of 27 countries that work and trade together) passed a major climate milestone in 2024, using more solar power than coal for the first time. The EU is trying to move away from fossil fuels like coal and gas, which release greenhouse gases (gases that trap heat in Earth's atmosphere).

The report was written by Ember, a nonprofit focusing on clean energy. Overall, 47% of the EU's electricity last year was created using renewable resources. Solar panels were responsible for 11% of power generation, up from 9.3% the previous year. Wind power made up 17.4% of all energy. Coal accounted for less than 10% of all electricity for the first time, and gas power fell to 15.7%.

Nuclear power continues to make up the largest share of electricity in the EU, at 23.7%. The report puts the EU ahead of schedule for its climate targets, which include cutting 55% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reaching zero emissions by 2050.



Solar panels in France

Cynthia Erivo (left) and Ariana Grande

MOVIE HISTORY
The first animated film to be nominated for best picture was *Beauty and the Beast* in 1991.

Academy Award nominees named

The nominations for the 97th annual Academy Awards, the most prestigious prizes in the film industry, were announced on January 23. Also known as the Oscars, the awards will recognize the top achievements in film in 2024, including the categories of acting, writing, special effects, and music. The voting process involves more than 9,500 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which includes actors, directors, and producers.

The movie musical *Wicked* received 10 nominations, including best picture. Cynthia Erivo, who played Elphaba, was nominated for best actress, and Ariana Grande, who played Glinda, received a nomination for best supporting actress. *Wicked* is now the highest-grossing movie adaptation of a Broadway musical.

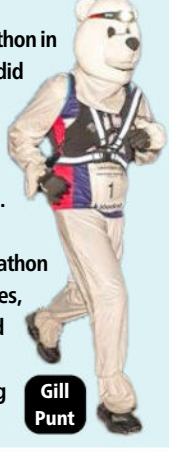
Five films were nominated for best animated feature. One of them—*The Wild Robot*, based on Peter Brown's best-selling children's book of the same title—was also nominated for best sound editing and best original score. Another nominee, *Flow*, was made in Latvia and was also named in the best international feature category. The three other nominees for animated feature were *Inside Out 2*, which was the top-grossing film of the year; *Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl*; and *Memoir of a Snail* (rated R).

The Oscar winners will be announced on March 2 during a ceremony at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California. The event will be hosted by comedian Conan O'Brien and broadcast on ABC at 8 p.m. ET.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A FUN RUN

Gill Punt didn't just run a marathon in the dark in 14° F weather. She did it while wearing a polar bear costume—and set a world record for fastest ice marathon dressed as a mammal (female). Punt, a teacher from the UK, completed the PolarNight Marathon in Norway in 4 hours, 58 minutes, and 29 seconds. She also raised more than $25,000 for cancer research. "What an exhilarating adventure," she said.



Gill Punt

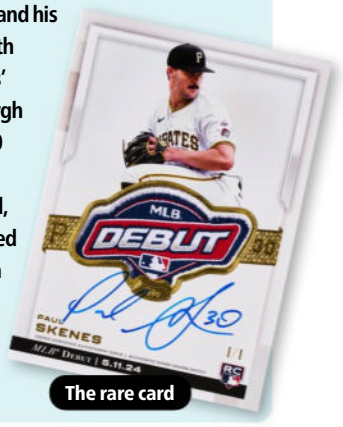
A STINKY SENSATION

People lined up for hours to see—and smell—a corpse flower known as "Smelliot" at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York. The rare plant blooms for two to three days every few years, and when it does, it emits an odor "like feet, cheese, and rotten meat," said one visitor. The strong scent attracts pollinators.

"Smelliot" in bloom

PAYING IT FORWARD

An 11-year-old baseball fan from California pulled a one-of-a-kind Paul Skenes MLB rookie card from a pack, and his pick could be worth $1 million. Skenes' team, the Pittsburgh Pirates, offered 30 years of season tickets for the card, but the boy decided to sell it at auction instead, with proceeds going toward wildfire relief in the state.

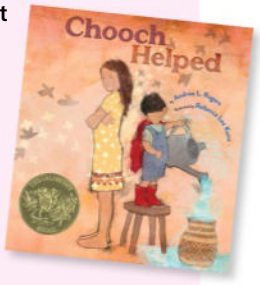


The rare card

ON THE COVER: ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES; MARVEL ANIMATION; JODI LEVINE FOR SUPERMAKEIT; AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION; ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS; BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDENS; @TOPPS/X; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY; AP

Some of this year's winning books

The Caldecott winner



The Caldecott Medal, created in 1937, goes to the year's best picture book for children. This year the medal was awarded to *Chooch Helped*, written by Andrea L. Rogers and illustrated by Rebecca Lee Kunz. The story is about a Cherokee girl who reluctantly introduces her younger brother to their family's traditions.

Children's book prizes announced

The 2025 awards for best books and digital media for children and young adults were announced on January 27. The American Library Association (ALA), the world's largest and oldest library association, named the winners.

What won the Newbery Medal?

The Newbery Medal, established in 1922, is given to the best children's book of the year. It is named after John Newbery, one of the first people to publish books for children. This year the medal went to *The First State of Being*, by Erin Entrada Kelly. It takes place in 1999 and explores time travel, friendship, and belonging. Kelly's work has been honored before. She won the Newbery Medal in 2018 for *Hello, Universe*, and *We Dream of Space* was a Newbery honor book (runner-up) in 2021.

What won the Coretta Scott King award?

The Coretta Scott King Author Award was created in 1969 to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King. The 2025 winner is *Twenty-Four Seconds from Now*, by Jason Reynolds. The young adult novel moves backward in time to show how Neon, the main character, falls in love. Reynolds' book *Long Way Down* was named a Newbery honor book and a Coretta Scott King honor book in 2018, and many of his other books have previously been named a Coretta Scott King honor book.

What were the honor books?

One Big Open Sky, by Lesa Cline-Ransome, was chosen as an honor book for both the Newbery and the Coretta Scott King awards. Other Newbery honors went to *Across So Many Seas*, by Ruth Behar; *Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All*, by Chanel Miller; and *The Wrong Way Home*, by Kate O'Shaughnessy. The other two Coretta Scott King honor books were *Black Girl You Are Atlas*, by Renée Watson, and *Black Star*, by Kwame Alexander.

What other recognition was given?

The Young Adult Library Services Association honors a book every year for excellence in nonfiction for young adults. This year's award went to *Rising from the Ashes: Los Angeles, 1992. Edward Jae Song Lee, Latasha Harlins, Rodney King, and a City on Fire*, by Paula Yoo. The Odyssey Award, given for best audiobook, was awarded to *A Plate of Hope: The Inspiring Story of Chef José Andrés and World Central Kitchen*.

WORD OF THE WEEK

SPIDER

The spider takes its name from the Old English word "spithra." It came from the verb "spinnan," which means "to spin." Another Old English name for the spider was "attercop," meaning "poison-head," since all spiders were thought to be poisonous. A spider's web was also known as a "cop-web," which eventually became our "cobweb."

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

February 2, 1653

New Amsterdam is established

On February 2, 1653, New Amsterdam, which later became New York City, was established as a city with its own government. It was settled by the Dutch and had a population of about 800 people. In 1664, the British took control of it and renamed it after the Duke of York. Today, New York City has a population of more than 8 million people and is the largest US city.

A view of New Amsterdam

Snow in New Orleans, Louisiana

Snowstorm strikes the South

A winter storm struck southern states from Texas to Florida, causing record snowfall and icy conditions. About 20 million people were under winter weather advisories. Louisiana issued its first-ever blizzard warning, and the New Orleans International Airport received a record 8 inches of snow. The storm system also led to unusually low temperatures. On January 22, it was warmer in Anchorage, Alaska, than it was in Atlanta, Georgia.

Bill Nelson

NASA leader retires from service

Bill Nelson has stepped down from his position as the head of NASA. He was appointed in 2021 and led the US space agency to successes that included launching the James Webb Space Telescope and overseeing the Artemis 1 Moon mission. He left his successor, to be appointed by President Donald Trump, a letter that read, "May you and the NASA team lead our world into dazzling new dreams."

New stamps revealed for 2025

The US Postal Service introduced two stamp collections that will be released later this year. One series features eight images from *Goodnight Moon*, a beloved 1947 children's book written by Margaret Wise Brown and illustrated by Clement Hurd. Another series celebrates the animated television show *SpongeBob SquarePants*, with four images of the optimistic SpongeBob.

GETTY IMAGES (6); NBHOF; USPS; ON LEFT PAGE: AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION; GETTY IMAGES (2)

Left to right: Ichiro Suzuki, CC Sabathia, and Billy Wagner

WOW! Former New York Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera is the only player to have been unanimously elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Players elected to Baseball Hall of Fame

The National Baseball Hall of Fame's Class of 2025 was announced on January 21. Former players Ichiro Suzuki, CC Sabathia, and Billy Wagner will be inducted into the Hall—a prestigious honor in Major League Baseball (MLB). Since 1936, a total of 351 people have been accepted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, which aims to promote excellence in baseball and preserve its history, in Cooperstown, New York.

To be eligible, players must have retired between five and 15 years ago. Members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America (BBWAA) fill out ballots with up to 10 players they believe are deserving of the recognition. Players who are named on at least 75% of the ballots get inducted.

The logo for the Hall in Cooperstown, New York

Ichiro is the first Asian-born player elected to the Hall. He was chosen in his first year of eligibility with a nearly unanimous vote of 393–1. Ichiro, age 51, began his baseball career in Japan and played for the MLB from 2001 through 2019, mostly with the Seattle Mariners. He recorded more than 3,000 hits in his career, and in 2004 he set the MLB record for most hits in a season, with 262. Ichiro also won 10 Gold Glove awards for his defensive play in the outfield.

Sabathia, a pitcher, was also elected to the Hall in his first year of eligibility. He is one of 19 pitchers in the MLB to record at least 3,000 strikeouts in a career. Sabathia, age 44, received the American League Cy Young Award for best pitcher in 2007 and won a World Series with the New York Yankees in 2009. Wagner, age 53, a closing pitcher and a seven-time All Star, was elected to the Hall in his 10th and final year of eligibility. He recorded more than 400 saves in 16 seasons.

The players will be inducted in a ceremony on July 27 in Cooperstown. A plaque highlighting each athlete's achievements will be hung in the Hall next to those honoring the other members.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Capitals goalie cites flying nacho distraction for allowing goal vs. Oilers" *UPI*

Around the world

Cancan dancers

Paris, France
Famous dance to be protected

France's culture minister, Rachida Dati, has revealed plans to recognize the cancan dance as part of the country's "intangible cultural heritage," a list of things that are regarded as uniquely French. The cancan was invented in Paris in the 1800s. It involves dancers kicking their legs fast and high and ends with doing splits. Adding the dance to the cultural heritage list is a way to protect it so it can be enjoyed by future generations.

People arriving in northern Gaza

Gaza and Israel
Ceasefire agreement moves forward

Tens of thousands of Palestinians began returning to northern Gaza on January 27 during the first phase of an agreement to end fighting between Israel and Hamas (a terrorist group based in Gaza). About 1 million people were ordered to leave northern Gaza when the war began in 2023. When *The Week Junior* went to press, Hamas had also released seven hostages and Israel had released 290 Palestinian prisoners as part of the January 19 deal.

Residents fleeing a town

Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo
Rebels claim major city

A rebel group called M23 claims to have taken control of the eastern city of Goma. M23 has controlled large parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo since 2021. On January 26, its fighters advanced toward Goma, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee nearby towns. Despite M23's claims, the national government said it still controlled important parts of the city.

Dublin, Ireland
New leader chosen

A new *taoiseach* (prime minister) for Ireland has been announced, following disagreements since the November election. Micheál Martin will lead the government, which is a coalition (groups working together). It includes Martin's party, Fianna Fáil, and the Fine Gael party, led by Simon Harris, who will take over as *taoiseach* in 2027.

Micheál Martin

Cape Town, South Africa
Memorial honors troops

On January 22, a memorial was unveiled to remember 1,772 South Africans who died during World War I (1914–1918). The men, most of whom were Black, served in dangerous roles as military laborers during the East Africa Campaign, in which soldiers from British and German colonies fought against each other. This is the first time these men have received official recognition for their contributions.

A performer at the unveiling

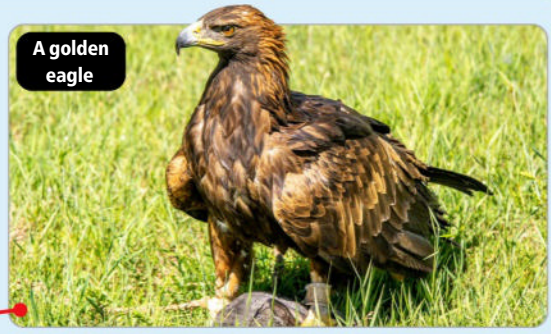
GETTY IMAGES (6); REUTERS; ALAMY; SHUTTERSTOCK

Around the world

The statue

Thessaloniki, Greece
Artifact found in trash bag

A statue that was found in a garbage bag is believed to date back to the Hellenistic period (323 BCE to 31 BCE), Greek police announced on January 22. The marble statue is thought to be a figure of a goddess. It measures about 31 inches tall and has no head or arms. The man who found the artifact gave it to police, who sent it to experts.


A golden eagle

Osh, Kyrgyzstan
Nature reserve planned

Kyrgyzstan's government wants to create a huge nature reserve in the Osh region, in the southwest of the country. The Chon-Alai Nature Park, which would be about 258 square miles in size, would help protect species that are rare or endangered in Kyrgyzstan, including snow leopards, golden eagles, and Turkestan catfish. The proposal has been published so the public can share their reaction to it.

Hans Zimmer

Saudi Arabia
Film composer to rewrite anthem

Hans Zimmer, a film soundtrack composer, has been asked to create a new version of Saudi Arabia's national anthem. Zimmer has written soundtracks for more than 150 films, including *Kung Fu Panda*, *Madagascar*, and *The Lion King*. Saudi Arabia's current national anthem, "Aash Al-Malik" ("Long Live the King"), was written in 1947. Some people think changing the song is part of the country's plan to appear more modern.

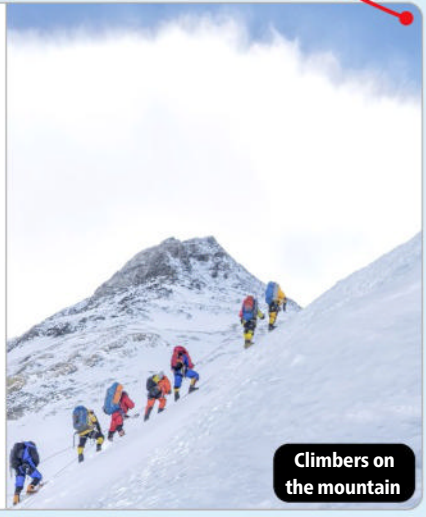
A newlywed couple

Thailand
Same-sex marriage legalized

On January 23, a new law making same-sex marriage legal in Thailand took effect. Advocates had fought for the change for more than 10 years. Hundreds of same-sex couples celebrated by getting married on the first day it became legal. Pisit Sirihiranchai, who married his partner of five years, told CNN, "It's the happiest day of my life."

Mount Everest, Nepal
Climbing fees increase

For the first time in nearly 10 years, Nepali authorities are raising the price visitors pay to climb Mount Everest. Each year, Nepal issues about 300 permits to ascend the world's tallest mountain, collecting fees that provide a significant source of income for the country. Starting in September, these fees will increase by 36%. People who want to climb during the busiest season in April and May will have to pay $15,000.


Climbers on the mountain

Should we stop singing at movie musicals?

While some audience members belt out tunes, others want them to keep it down.

What you need to know

- ***The Wizard of Oz*** **opened in 1903 as a Broadway musical. In 1939, it became one of the first stage musicals to be adapted into a movie.**
- **The book *Wicked*, which was based on the show and movie, came out in 1995. It was turned into a Broadway musical in 2003 and adapted into the movie *Wicked* in 2024.**
- **In its code of conduct, AMC Theaters includes no talking or disruptive behavior, which many people say includes singing.**

FILM FIRST
The Jazz Singer, which came out in 1927, is considered the first movie musical and the first feature-length movie with dialogue.

When the movie *Wicked* came out in November, millions of fans of the popular Broadway musical it was based on flocked to theaters, dressed in colorful costumes. It was a massive hit—and moviegoers loved it—but that hasn't stopped many from complaining about the experience. Some said it was ruined by people singing along to the songs at loud volume and drowning out the voices of the film's performers. Not everyone thinks that's a problem. Even some of the movie's stars, including Cynthia Erivo, who plays Elphaba, have encouraged people to sing along in theaters. What do you think? Should we stop singing at movie musicals?

Yes—it's so unfair

It's OK to sing loudly when you're alone in the shower or car, but doing that in a theater is disruptive and disrespectful to other moviegoers, not to mention the people who worked really hard to make the film. You would never sing aloud during a live theater production, would you? People pay a lot of money to go to the movies these days, and they're paying to see and hear the professional performers in the film, not you. If you really want to sing along to a movie musical, many theaters offer sing-along showings where the lyrics are displayed on the screen and people are encouraged to express themselves and sing.

No—let people have fun

Movie tickets cost a small fortune, and people definitely want to make the most of their time in the theater. If they're seeing a musical, they want to enjoy it all the more by singing their hearts out. We're not talking about standing up in the aisles, performing the dance moves, and blocking everyone's view. But singing along creates a community of music lovers in the theater and brings people together. A show like *Wicked* has devoted fans around the world, but not everyone has the chance to see it in person on Broadway. This might be the closest they ever get, and they deserve to enjoy the experience to the fullest.

YES Three reasons we should stop singing at movie musicals

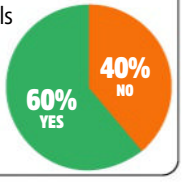
1. **Singing out loud is rude and unfair to other people in the audience. It would never be OK at a Broadway show.**
2. **People pay to hear professionally trained performers in the movie sing, not you.**
3. **There are other options: Go to a sing-along showing, or have one at home when the film comes out on streaming services.**

NO Three reasons we should not stop singing at movie musicals

1. **You paid for your ticket. It's OK to have fun as long as you're not dancing or blocking someone's view.**
2. **When fans sing together, it creates a real sense of community in the theater.**
3. **This is the closest many people will get to seeing a popular musical, and they should be able to enjoy it.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, our poll asked if we should bring back extinct species. Most of you want to revive animals from long ago: 60% said yes, and 40% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think we should stop singing at movie musicals or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

A path to the stars

Clayton P. Turner, NASA's new leader of Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD), brings more than 30 years of experience at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. He spoke to *The Week Junior* about his love of space and the new position.

How did you make your way to NASA?
After high school I served in the Army, worked as a recording engineer, and even repaired pinball machines. Years later, I went back to college, graduated, and received a call for an interview at NASA. Seeing a team working on a space project there, I knew this was where I wanted to be.

What leadership qualities have helped your career?
A good leader brings out the best in people. My experiences in the military taught me how to motivate others and stay focused on the mission.

What are you looking forward to in your new role?
I'm excited to develop technologies that will enable humans to live and work on the Moon and Mars—it's thrilling to think that my grandchild's generation might attend school on Mars. One of our retirees once said it's our job to plant the seeds for trees we won't enjoy the shade of.

What projects are you working on?
A giant solar sail, currently in orbit, uses sunlight to propel spacecraft. We're also developing systems to extract power and water from the Moon, including harnessing lunar ice, which could be crucial for supporting long-term human missions on the Moon and Mars.

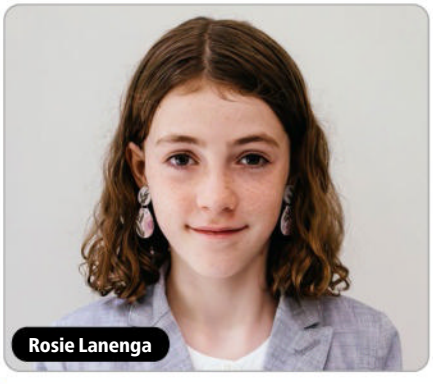
If you could give any advice to young people, what would it be?
Don't get discouraged if your path doesn't follow the ideal timeline. With perseverance, you can still reach your dreams. Embrace the hard because it can lead to the amazing.

Clayton P. Turner

SPACE HISTORY
NASA's first-ever mission, Pioneer 0, launched in 1958. It failed but helped lead to the 1972 success of Pioneer 10, the first spacecraft to leave our solar system.

Leading her state

On January 16, Rosie Lanenga, a fifth grader from Portland, Oregon, was sworn in as the state's newest Kid Governor. She was elected by her peers statewide. Lanenga's campaign focused on environmental issues, including the effects of temperature change on water supplies and the increase in wildfires. During her one-year term, she aims to raise awareness of climate change with a three-part plan: encouraging eco-conscious actions at home, like composting; hosting school meetings; and empowering students to spread knowledge.



Rosie Lanenga

Pharrell Williams

Champion for change

Pharrell Williams, age 51, has been named UNESCO's Goodwill Ambassador for artistic education and entrepreneurship. The award-winning performer of hit singles like "Happy" and creative director for the fashion brand Louis Vuitton, Williams has also founded nonprofits that fund educational and entrepreneurial programs in under-served communities. He will use his platform to support UNESCO's cultural initiatives and inspire young creators, particularly in Africa. "I'm honored to continue our work in evening the odds for children and adults through education," he said.

OVERHEARD

"It's important to make a mess because sometimes that's how creative things happen."

Actress Lucy Liu, age 56, the voice of Master Viper in the *Kung Fu Panda* films, on how imperfection can spark new ideas

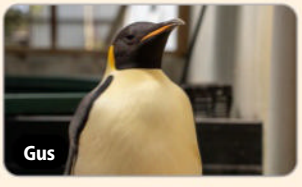
NASA (2); COURTESY OF OREGON SECRETARY OF STATE; GETTY IMAGES (2)

HUDDLE UP
Emperor penguins stand close together to share their body heat. Inside a penguin huddle it can be as warm as 75° F.

Emperor penguin adults and chicks

A very long journey

A penguin named Gus surprised experts in November when he arrived on a beach in Western Australia, about 2,100 miles from Antarctica and farther north than any other emperor penguin has ever been seen. After 20 days of veterinary care, Gus was released back into the Southern Ocean.

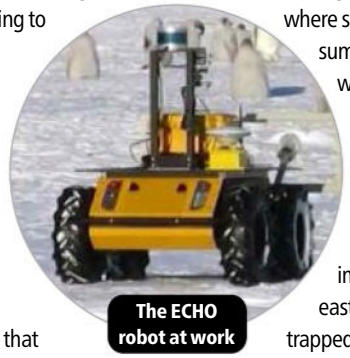


Gus

Studying the world's biggest penguins

Advancements in technology are helping researchers learn more about emperor penguins—including how the birds survive in the harsh environment of Antarctica.

Emperor penguins are the world's largest penguin species, typically growing to about 4 feet tall. They live in groups called colonies on Antarctic sea ice, where several layers of feathers help them conserve body heat. In the past, the remote habitat made it difficult for scientists to access and study the birds.



The ECHO robot at work

In 2009, scientists from the British Antarctic Survey showed that penguin colonies could be identified based on droppings seen in satellite images. Several previously undiscovered penguin colonies have been found using these images since then, and now 66 colonies are known to exist.

Satellite data has helped to reveal penguins' behavior. For example, one 2023 study discovered that some penguin colonies breed in areas where sea ice stays solid into the summer, but others choose places where ice melts quickly. This suggests that the birds' breeding habits are more flexible than scientists previously realized. Last year, to experts' surprise, satellite images showed that a colony in eastern Antarctica survived getting trapped by a glacier—possibly by diving into the water beneath it.

Experts seeking details about the penguins' lives must also face the challenge of studying the birds on the ground. To help, they have developed a four-wheeled robot named ECHO that can drive on the icy surface to get close to the penguins without disturbing them. ECHO uses artificial intelligence software to recognize penguins. It can also scan special tags to track their movements over a long period of time, which is valuable for conservation. For instance, researchers have found that young penguins swim farther away from the coast than previously believed, leading to calls for more protections in the Southern Ocean.

Scientists hope that robots like ECHO can be used to study penguins and their habitats throughout Antarctica. "Studying emperor penguins is, of course, important for the future of the species," Daniel Zitterbart of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts told *New Scientist*. "But it is also important for what it reveals about this big and inaccessible ecosystem."

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Victoria Falls, Zambia and Zimbabwe

One of the world's largest waterfalls, Victoria Falls, lies on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe in Africa. There, the Zambezi River cascades into a series of gorges made of basalt, a volcanic rock. The sheet of water drops about 355 feet at its steepest point, and its force creates a shimmering mist that can be seen from miles away. The site is part of Zambia's Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park and Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls National Park, which together make up about 26 square miles of land. Animals found in the area include zebras, elephants, wildebeest, hippos, and white rhinos.

Hippos near the falls

GLOBAL EFFORT
The WWF works in nearly 100 countries around the world to protect people, places, and wildlife.

The vampire hedgehog

Hundreds of species discovered in Asia

A recent report from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF, a conservation organization) revealed that its researchers identified 234 new species in one Asian region in 2023. This included 173 plants, 26 reptiles, 17 amphibians, 15 fish, and three new mammals across Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The new species included a rat-like relative of the common hedgehog, which has been named the vampire hedgehog because of its fang-like teeth. There was also a tiny bat with a leaf-shaped nose. Reptiles included a bright orange-headed crocodile newt and the limestone eyelash pit viper snake, which was named after the scales around its eyes. Experts also found unusual plants, such as a species of ginger with a root that smells like mango fruit.

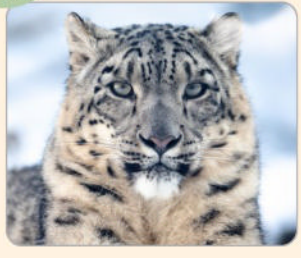
A spokesperson for WWF said, "Each of these species is a critical piece of a functioning, healthy ecosystem and a jewel in the region's rich natural heritage." The organization's director of conservation and science said that countless more species are yet to be discovered.

Animal of the week: Darwin's frog

London Zoo in the UK has welcomed 53 Darwin's frogs from Chile in order to protect the species from extinction. In Chile, a deadly fungus has appeared in the area where the tiny frogs live, so the zoo conducted a rescue mission.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 10 to 15 years
- **HABITAT:** Forests in Chile and Argentina
- **SIZE:** About 0.8 to 1.2 inches
- **DIET:** Small insects, snails, spiders, and worms
- **FUN FACT:** Males carry their young in a pouch under their mouths for the first two months.

Good week / Bad week



Snow leopards

In the central Asian country of Kazakhstan, the population of snow leopards has risen to between 152 and 189. Experts say conservation efforts and protected areas have doubled the vulnerable animal's numbers since the 1990s.

Porpoises

An oil spill in Russia's Kerch Strait appears to have caused the death of more than 30 marine mammals. According to a rescue center, most of the creatures were an endangered group of harbor porpoises known as Azov dolphins.

ALEXEI V ABRAMOV; GETTY IMAGES (3); OKSANA SAVENKO; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION; PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA/FACEBOOK; GETTY IMAGES (2)

Ask an expert

"Why do bats hang upside down?" Julian, 11, New York

Mark Wanner
Animal care expert,
Brookfield Zoo Chicago

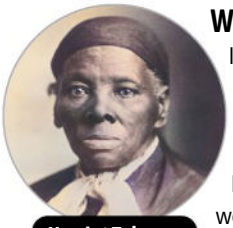
Scientists believe the top reason bats hang is that it makes it easier to take flight. Bats are uncomfortable on the ground, and their legs are not made for running to take off. By hanging upside down, they can simply drop from their branch (roost) and start flying.

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about Brookfield Zoo Chicago at brookfieldzoo.org.

A journey of courage

The Harriet Tubman Byway is a self-guided tour through history.

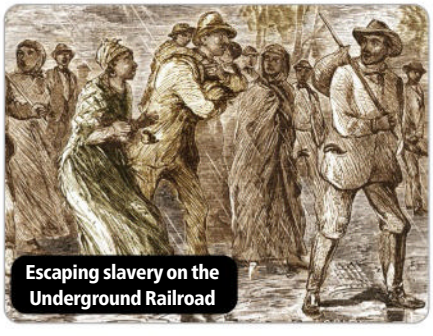
Near America's Atlantic Coast, one route tells the story of a woman who dared to make a difference—and the people whose lives were forever changed by her bravery.



Harriet Tubman

Who was Harriet Tubman?

In 1822, in Dorchester County, Maryland, Araminta Ross was born into slavery. From about the age of 5, Ross and her eight siblings were forced to work in white people's homes and fields. After marrying a free man and changing her name to Harriet Tubman, she escaped from her enslavers in 1849 and settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The following year, she returned to free some of her relatives and became a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, helping others escape. By the time of her death at age 91 in 1913, Tubman had also served as a military spy, worked to abolish slavery, and advocated for women's right to vote.



Escaping slavery on the Underground Railroad

What was the Underground Railroad?

While slavery was legal in the southern US through 1865, a network of people and safe spaces known as the Underground Railroad secretly helped enslaved people flee to freedom in the north, where slavery had been almost entirely abolished by 1830. People risked their lives on these journeys, traveling at night to avoid detection and capture. Conductors like Tubman guided people along the routes and shared information about where to find shelter and food. An estimated 25,000 to 50,000 enslaved people escaped to freedom this way.

SPECIAL SIGHTS

The Federal Highway Administration has designated the byway one of the best driving tours in the nation.

These four photos depict scenes along the byway. Here, a mural at the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center.

The Dorchester County Courthouse, where slaves were once auctioned

Must-see stops

Bucktown General Store

People can book tours of this store in Maryland (right), where Harriet Tubman, at age 12, refused to help an enslaver stop an enslaved man from escaping. The enslaver threw an iron weight at her head, causing a lifelong injury.

Linchester Mill

In Tubman's time, this mill in Maryland (right) was a hub of activity. Free and enslaved Black people worked together at the mill, and white Quakers living nearby provided information and support to freedom-seekers passing through the area.

ALAMY (6); GETTY IMAGES (2); VWPICS VIA AP IMAGES; HARRIET TUBMAN BYWAY; PRESERVATION MARYLAND

and freedom

HEROIC ACTIONS
In approximately 13 total journeys, Harriet Tubman brought about 70 people to freedom and instructed many others who traveled on their own.

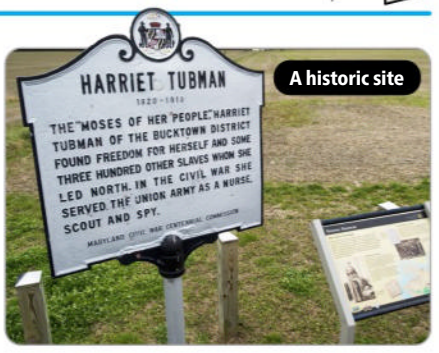
The Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, a hiding place for enslaved people seeking freedom

An exhibit at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center

Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park

This park in Delaware honors Tubman and Thomas Garrett, an Underground Railroad agent who helped about 2,700 people escape slavery. Once, when a group led by Tubman was stuck hiding from slave catchers, Garrett sent a wagon to smuggle them through.

A statue of Tubman and Thomas Garrett



A historic site

What is the Harriet Tubman Byway?

Hundreds of people seeking freedom followed an old Native American footpath next to the Choptank River. Today, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway re-creates that route and brings Tubman's story to life in a self-guided driving tour that winds through Maryland for 125 miles and Delaware for 98 miles before crossing into Pennsylvania. The byway has 45 designated stops that preserve locations where Tubman lived and worked, sites dedicated to her, and places of importance to Black American history. These include Brodess Farm, where Tubman spent much of her childhood, and the visitor center of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, which features exhibits about Tubman's life.

How you can experience it

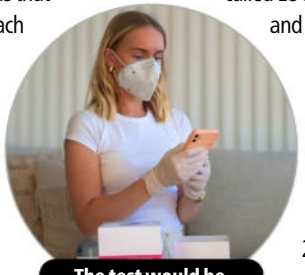
The best place to start is in Cambridge, Maryland, where staff working at the Dorchester County Visitor Center can help you plan your trip. Then spend a few hours or a few days following the route through the landscapes and waterscapes of Maryland's Eastern Shore and into Delaware and Pennsylvania. The natural landscapes along the byway look similar to the way they did during Tubman's time, so you can see what she and other freedom-seekers might have encountered during their courageous journeys. You can explore the route at your own pace and stop at as many sites as you wish. You can find a printable driving guide and map, an audio guide that brings powerful stories from Tubman's time to life, and information about arranging guided tours at harriettubmanbyway.org.

One of the dogs being trained to detect cancer odors in people's breath

Dogs and AI sniff out cancer

Scientists are working to improve cancer detection by combining the powerful sniffing abilities of dogs with artificial intelligence (AI, when a computer imitates human learning). The results have led to increased accuracy and could mean better treatment outcomes for patients.

More than 1.7 million new cases of cancer (a collection of diseases caused by cells that grow out of control) are reported each year in the US. Medical experts say early diagnosis greatly improves patients' chances of recovering. Researchers are constantly looking for ways to make screening for the disease easier, faster, and more convenient.


The test would be simple to use at home.

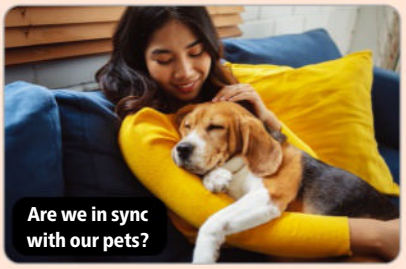
That's where the dogs come in. The animals are known for their incredible sense of smell, which is 10,000 to 100,000 times stronger than a human's. In the past, dogs have been trained to detect the scent of diseases like diabetes and malaria on people. The animals are taught to give some kind of signal, like sitting down, if they smell the disease. Then their human handlers interpret the signals to confirm whether the dogs found the disease.

For this study, scientists trained six Labrador retrievers over six months to detect four types of common cancers: lung, breast, colorectal, and prostate. The animals sniffed breath samples from people. The dogs were asked to sit down if they smelled the disease or move on if they didn't. However, the team of researchers knew that dogs' reactions can be misinterpreted by human handlers. To address this, they created an AI model called LUCID to assess the dogs' expressions and body language as they sniffed.

To test the system, the team had the dogs sniff breath samples from nearly 1,400 people, and the AI analyzed the dogs' reactions. Together, the dog–AI team correctly identified 245 of the 261 confirmed cancer cases in this group, giving them a 94% success rate. They also had a very low rate of mistakenly identifying a negative sample as positive.

The team said the system successfully identified cancer in its early stages 95% of the time. They hope to develop at-home tests to make it easy for people to take them. A patient will only have to breathe into a special mask that collects a sample, then send it in for analysis by dogs and AI. Researchers will continue testing the technology, using trained beagles in the next round.

On the same wavelength


Are we in sync with our pets?

Past studies have found that when people are together, the patterns of their brainwaves can synchronize (happen at the same time). The closer they are emotionally, the stronger the alignment. Now a team of scientists is exploring whether the same thing happens between dogs and their owners, who often share a strong emotional bond.

Using electrodes attached to the heads of dogs and their owners, the team tracks their brain activity as the person looks at their pet, uses their phone, or walks away. Researchers will see whether their brainwaves are in sync and how that increases or decreases during these activities. That will offer insight into the bond between owners and dogs and whether they're paying attention to the same things.

Do trees carry "memories" of water?

A new study found that trees can "remember" having a lot of water and behave differently if their water supply changes, even many years later.

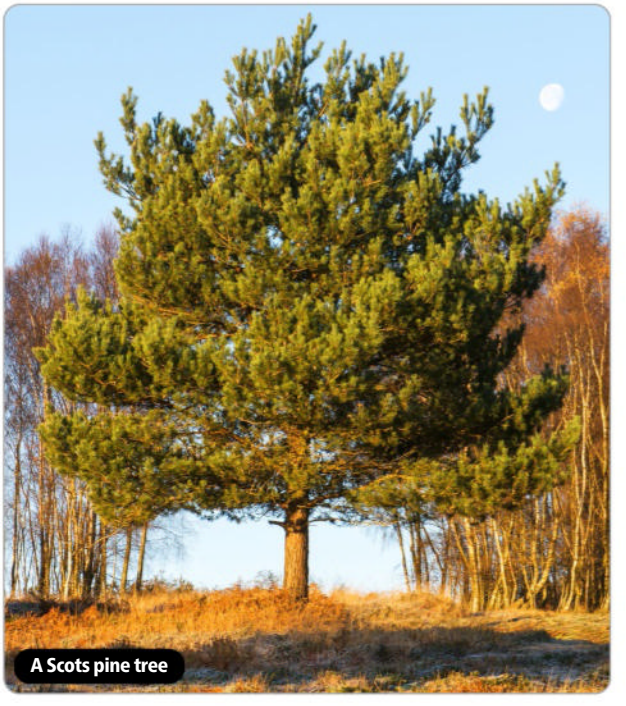
The study took place over 20 years, during a period in which the planet became much warmer and drier. In 2003, scientists began giving Scots pine trees in the Pfyn-Finges Nature Park in Switzerland more water than they would have gotten from rainfall alone. Then, in 2013, they stopped giving half of the trees the extra water.

LONG LIFE
Scots pine trees typically live for 250 to 500 years and can grow to nearly 15 feet around at their widest point.

In 2023, researchers collected leaf and twig samples from trees that had been getting extra water since 2003, as well as trees that stopped getting extra water in 2013 and trees that had never gotten any extra water.

When they examined the samples using an extremely powerful X-ray, the team found that new leaves on the trees that had their extra water cut off in 2013 were tiny and growing slowly. They showed signs of stress from lack of water. While these changes might seem negative, the team thought the trees had "learned" from past loss of water and adjusted accordingly.

Trees that had sprouted in the previous 10 to 15 years and never had any extra water, however, were healthy and growing well with no signs of stress. The team concluded that these trees had no "memory" of having lots of water. Trees that have grown in dry climates may be better suited to withstand long periods without water than older trees are.


A Scots pine tree

One of the footprints

Dinosaur "highway" is discovered

About 200 dinosaur footprints were found on a "dinosaur highway" in England, which is the UK's largest known dinosaur footprint site. They were made about 166 million years ago, during a time known as the Middle Jurassic period.

Five trackways of footprints were found in a quarry (place where people dig rock out of the ground). Researchers believe one track was left by a meat-eating Megalosaurus, which was between 19 and 30 feet long. The others were made by a long-necked, plant-eating sauropod that was up to twice the size of the Megalosaurus. The longest continuous track was about 492 feet long.

The tracks indicated that the massive creatures were moving at about 3 miles per hour, which is about the speed of a walking human. Studying the tracks will help scientists learn more about how the dinosaurs lived and moved.

AMAZING INVENTION

A charging dock that is superfast

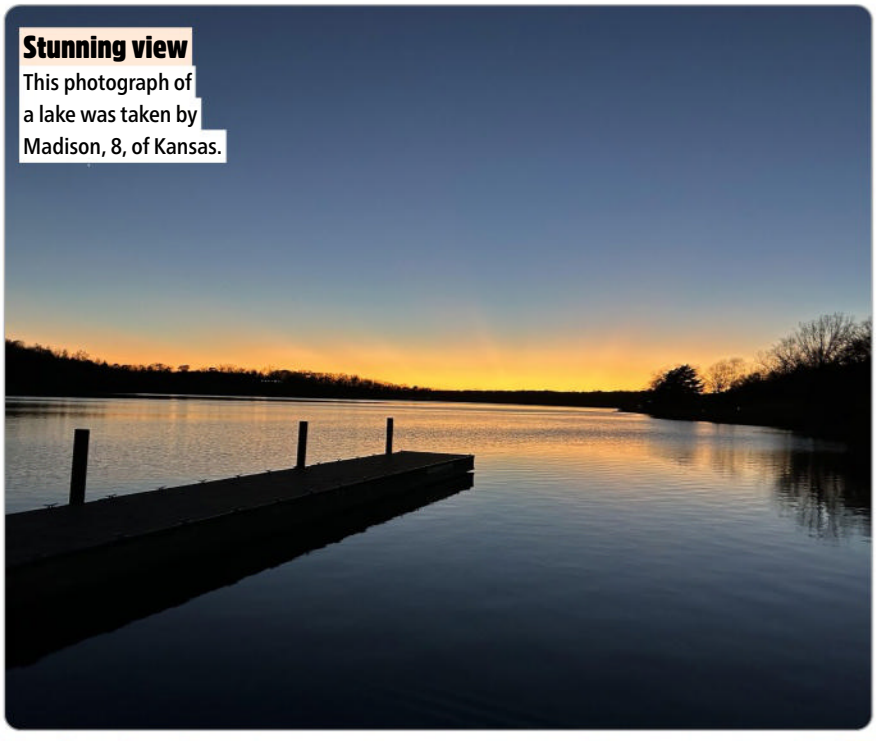
The Swippitt IPS

People who need to charge their phone quickly no longer need to plug it in and wait. Instead, they can pop it into the Swippitt IPS dock and be powered up in seconds. The device looks like a toaster and, according to its designers, is just about as simple to use.

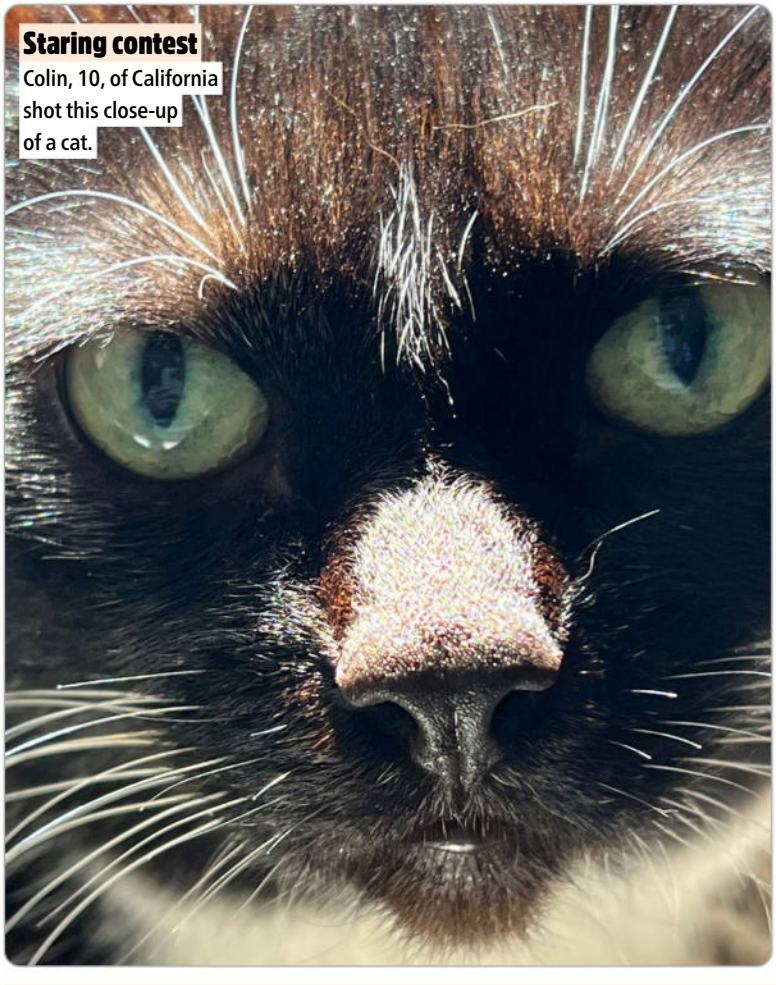
The Swippitt IPS doesn't actually charge phones quickly. Instead, it charges up to five battery packs, which also function as protective cases, at a time. When the user drops in their phone, the dock instantly changes the battery pack and begins charging the old one.

GETTY IMAGES; CAROLINE WOOD/UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD; SWIPPITT; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; SPOTIEARLY (2)

Reader photos of the week



Stunning view
This photograph of a lake was taken by Madison, 8, of Kansas.



Staring contest
Colin, 10, of California shot this close-up of a cat.

ALEXANDRA, MASSACHUSETTS; CLAIRE, DALLAS; COLIN, CALIFORNIA; MADISON, KANSAS; MADISON, CALIFORNIA; MARCO, CALIFORNIA

Reader photos of the week

Vast vista
Madison, 9, of California shot this image while on vacation at the Grand Canyon.

Head to head
Two cows face off in this photo taken by Claire, 12, of Texas.

Pretty pile
Alexandra, 11, of Massachusetts took this photograph of leaves.

Blending in
A butterfly is hard to spot in this picture by Marco, 9, of California.

WOW! The Kansas City Chiefs have made it to the AFC championship game seven years in a row.

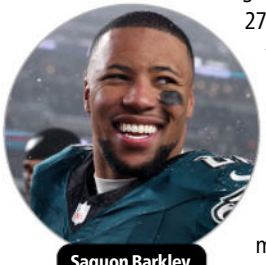
Kansas City Chiefs stars Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce (center) celebrate.

A cool souvenir for fans

A winter storm hit Philadelphia on January 19, when the Eagles hosted the Rams in the Divisional round of the playoffs. After the Eagles won, the team took snow from the end zones, placed it in pint-size containers, and listed them online for $50 each. They sold out in less than three hours.

Chiefs, Eagles headed to Super Bowl

The NFL (National Football League) conference championship games were held on January 26 and determined who will play in the Super Bowl on February 9. In the NFC (National Football Conference) game, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Washington Commanders, 55–23, and in the AFC (American Football Conference) contest, the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Buffalo Bills, 32–29. The Eagles and Chiefs are now headed for a rematch of Super Bowl 57, which was played in 2023.



Saquon Barkley

The Eagles were the number two team in the NFC playoffs, and the Commanders were number six. They went 1–1 against each other during the regular season. The Eagles hosted the NFC title game and scored four touchdowns in the first half. The Commanders also scored four times but only had one touchdown and three field goals.

Going into the second half, the Eagles had a 27–15 lead. They made another touchdown early in the third quarter, then the Commanders scored one of their own and a two-point conversion. But Washington's defense ran out of gas in the final quarter as the Eagles scored three more touchdowns and pulled away. The Eagles were led by star running back Saquon Barkley, who carried the ball 15 times for 118 yards and three touchdowns.

The Chiefs, who are the two-time reigning Super Bowl champs and were the top AFC team, hosted the second-seeded (ranked) Bills, who had beaten them once in the regular season. The game had many lead changes, but the Chiefs were up 21–16 at halftime. Buffalo had a one-point lead in the third quarter, but the Chiefs went up by seven in the fourth. With just over six minutes left in the game, the Bills tied it up. The Chiefs got the ball close to the end zone in their next possession, but settled for a field goal. The Bills then had a chance to score a game-winning touchdown in the final minutes but didn't come through.

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes racked up 288 yards and three touchdowns in the win, while Bills quarterback Josh Allen tallied 276 yards and two touchdowns. The Chiefs are hoping to become the first team in NFL history to win three Super Bowls in a row.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

TENNIS

On January 25, Madison Keys of the US won the women's title at the Australian Open. Keys was seeded (ranked) 19th, and she upset the number one player, Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, in the final. It was Keys' first major championship win. In the men's singles final the next day, Jannik Sinner of Italy beat Alexander Zverev of Germany to win his second straight Australian Open title and third major title overall.

Madison Keys

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The last two women's national champions faced off in a January 24 matchup. The second-ranked University of South Carolina beat the fifth-ranked Louisiana State University (LSU), 66–56, handing LSU its first loss of the season.

SPEED SKATING

Italian Davide Ghiotto not only won the 10,000-meter event at a January 25 World Cup race but also set a new world record. US skater Casey Dawson set a new American record in the event.

FUN FACT Michelle Kwan, the most decorated US skater in history, just finished a term as the US ambassador to Belize.

Amber Glenn

Ilia Malinin

Repeat figure skating champs

From January 20 to 26, the US Figure Skating National Championships took place in Wichita, Kansas. Competitions were held in singles, pairs, and ice dancing. All four of the reigning US senior champs skated, and three held onto their titles.

Amber Glenn won her second women's singles title in a row, but she faced a big challenge from Alysa Liu, the 2019 US champion. Liu has returned to competing after a nearly three-year break. She was in first after the short program, but Glenn had a strong free skate and ended up finishing 1.46 points ahead of her. The bronze went to two-time US champ Bradie Tennell.

In men's singles, "Quad God" Ilia Malinin dominated the field to secure his third consecutive national championship. He landed a record-tying six quadruple jumps and attempted to become the first skater to land seven in a competition, but he fell while trying. Malinin earned 46.82 more points than silver medalist Andrew Torgashev. It was the third-largest margin of victory in US championships history across all disciplines in the past 20 years. Camden Pulkinen won the bronze.

Reigning ice dance champions Madison Chock and Evan Bates picked up their fourth consecutive and sixth overall US championship, tying the record for the most US ice dance titles. In March, they will go for a rare third straight world title.

In pairs, Alisa Efimova and Misha Mitrofanov won their first gold. They moved from third to first after a free skate routine filled with daring moves. Katie McBeath and Daniil Parkman won silver, and last year's champions, Ellie Kam and Danny O'Shea, claimed the bronze.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Mickey Sullivan**

Sport: **Basketball**

"My coach is always pushing us to do our best and giving us tips about what we can work on. He makes practice fun with both easy and challenging drills that help us become better athletes. He led us to victory in a championship when our team was the youngest in the age group—and we won two years in a row! He made us awesome basketball players. My coach is also my dad, so he is teaching me not only at practice but also at home." Bizzy, 11, Maryland

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Aranza Vázquez Montaño

AGE: 22 SPORT: DIVING
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA/ MEXICO

Jumping in I began diving when I was 4 years old. My swimming coach was also a diving coach. I think the fun combination of jumping, flipping, and being in the air got me to stick with it.

Pool star Growing up in Mexico, my role model was Laura Sanchez, the only Mexican diver with an individual medal in the women's 3-meter event. At the pool, she'd say hi to everyone. She was humble and nice.

Hard work Most weeks, we train for about 25 hours in all, between weights and diving. Our practices are three to four hours, and about two and a half hours is just diving. On days off, I do nothing related to diving or school. I love reading, so I might do that for the whole day.

Air time When I'm on the diving board, I'll try to think of one or two corrections from my coach that will help my dive be good. Thinking about too many things makes you too anxious.

Ups and downs My biggest accomplishment is going to the Olympics in Tokyo and Paris. But right after Tokyo, I struggled mentally. I thought that because I'd been to the Olympics, I had to win every event and couldn't make any mistakes. I had to learn not to put pressure on myself because of past results.

Wise words Nothing is going to be easy, but if there is something that you truly enjoy and want to be good at, sometimes you have to make sacrifices and fight for it.

GETTY IMAGES (2); USVA ATHLETICS (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); COURTESY OF THE PHILADELPHIA EAGLES AND THE REALEST

POPULAR PAGES
More than 900 issues of the *Amazing Spider-Man* comics have been published since its 1962 debut.

Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man

New *Spider-Man* TV series

***Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man* centers on the teen web-slinger's relationships with his friends and family.**

A beloved comic book superhero is starring in a new animated TV series. *Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man* follows teen Peter Parker as he grows into his role as the web-slinging crime-fighter. The show began streaming on Disney+ on January 29, and episodes will be released in weekly batches.

Spider-Man, created by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, first appeared in the 1962 Marvel comic book *Amazing Fantasy #15*. Since then, the character has been featured in hundreds of comics as well as popular TV shows and films.

Jeff Trammell

Although Spider-Man is part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), a world where superhero stories are interconnected, the new show is not set in that realm. In fact, *Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man* head writer Jeff Trammell told *The Week Junior* his goal was to "make something that feels new and fresh." Still, many elements in the series will be familiar to Marvel comics fans, including Scorpion, a dangerous villain, and Nico Minoru, a character from the *Runaways* comics who is new to Spider-Man's world.

Trammell, a Spider-Man fan since childhood, called Peter "an eager kid trying to make a difference" and said he likes that he is relatable. While there is action in the series, it also has "a lot of heart," Trammell said. "It's about Peter and his friends and family, how they affect him, and how that affects who Spider-Man becomes."

Viewers will be able take away a big lesson, Trammell said: "Don't be afraid to figure out who you are—and use your neighborhood or community to push yourself further along."

3 real-life Spider-Men

Dan Goodwin
In the 1980s, the American rock climber known as SpiderDan scaled buildings that included Chicago's 110-story Sears Tower (right) and the 114-story CN Tower in Toronto, Canada.

Paolo A. Nespoli
On Halloween, astronauts aboard the International Space Station dress up. In 2017, European Space Agency astronaut Paolo A. Nespoli (right) posed in a Spider-Man mask and T-shirt.

Matteo Villardita
An Italian man named Matteo Villardita became famous in 2021 when he met Pope Francis dressed as Spider-Man (right). He visited children's hospitals wearing the costume, and the Pope praised him for his work.

DID YOU KNOW?
The city of Miami was founded by Julia Tuttle, later known as the "mother of Miami," in 1896.

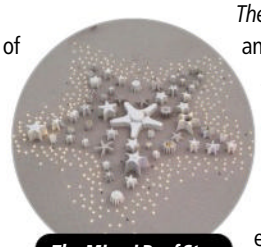
Heart of Okeanos

Art project helps Florida marine life

The ReefLine, an underwater sculpture park and snorkel trail, is coming to Miami Beach, Florida. The project is a community-driven effort that aims to protect and restore the city's ocean ecosystems. It is being rolled out in phases, with some parts arriving this spring.

The founder and artistic director of ReefLine is Ximena Caminos, an art curator (person who chooses art). She got the idea for it because, over the years, efforts to replenish eroding Miami-area beaches have harmed local coral reefs. "Art can be an incredible tool to raise awareness," she told *The Week Junior*. For ReefLine, Caminos collaborated with a Miami-based architecture firm and a local art studio. She also received $5 million in funding from the city.

The ReefLine sculptures are made by different artists and will be spread out over seven miles. A piece in the project's first phase, *Concrete Coral* by Leandro Erlich, features 22 concrete cars arranged in an underwater traffic jam. They are designed to promote coral growth, shifting the idea that cars can harm the environment into one that benefits it.


The Miami Reef Star

The Miami Reef Star by Carlos Betancourt and Alberto Latorre will appear in Phase 2, but it is already set up in prototype (test model) form on Miami Beach. It is made of huge 3D-printed concrete sea stars, which will be placed underwater and provide a habitat for endangered reef organisms. People flying into Miami will be able to see them from the sky. Another upcoming sculpture is Petroc Sesti's *Heart of Okeanos*, which looks like the heart of a blue whale.

Caminos said she hopes the ReefLine will not only become an iconic symbol of Miami but also be "a call to action that inspires people."

READER RECOMMENDS

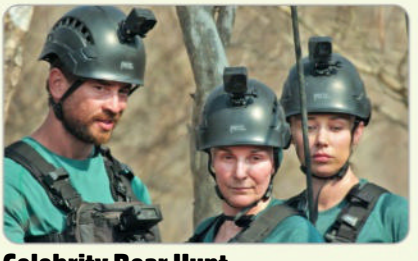
Parental Guidance *PG (Available to rent on major platforms)*
"This comedy is about Artie and Diane, a married couple who rarely get the opportunity to visit their grandchildren. When their daughter Alice and her husband ask them to watch the kids while they go on a business trip, Diane agrees, excited by the chance to spend time with her grandchildren. The week is full of chaos, surprises, and joy as Diane and Artie's easygoing parenting style clashes with Alice's overly involved approach. I love this film because of the funny way it contrasts the parenting styles of two generations and highlights a deeper message about family connections." Aashi, 12, California

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Pokémon Horizons Season 2: The Search for Laqua
(Netflix)
In the new season of this show, trainers Liko, Roy, and Dot seek out the remaining Six Hero Pokémon and the land of Laqua. They'll battle tough Gym Leaders and work on being able to teach Pokémon how to change their forms.

Puppy Bowl XXI
(Animal Planet) (TBS) (truTV) (Discovery Channel) February 9 at 2 p.m. ET (Max) (Discovery+)
This annual event raises awareness of rescue dogs and pet adoption. A total of 142 shelter pups divided into Team Ruff and Team Fluff will try to get chew toys to their end zones.



Celebrity Bear Hunt
(Netflix)
For this new comedic reality competition series, 12 celebrities are put through challenges in a Costa Rican jungle. If they lose, they have to escape the jungle on their own while being chased by adventurer and survival expert Bear Grylls. The series is rated TV-14.

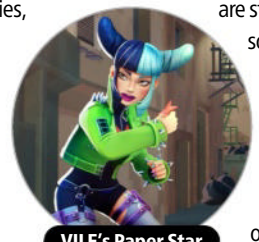
COURTESY OF THE REEFLINE; ILAI BELAUSTEGUI; 20TH CENTURY FOX; THE POKÉMON COMPANY INTERNATIONAL; WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY; NETFLIX; ON LEFT PAGE: MARVEL ANIMATION; GETTY IMAGES (2); ASSOCIATED PRESS; NASA/RANDY BRESNIK VIA INSTAGRAM

Solve mysteries as Carmen Sandiego

Carmen Sandiego is a new action-puzzle game. It was recently released for the Netflix Games mobile platform and will be available for the Nintendo Switch, Xbox systems, PlayStation platforms, and PC on March 4.

The Carmen Sandiego franchise is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Carmen started out as a slick thief, first appearing in a popular computer game in 1985. Since then, she has been in books, comics, cartoons, TV series, and game shows. She would steal art, artifacts, and even historic buildings, and detectives from ACME Detective Agencies would then look for her. The franchise is known for using mysteries to encourage kids to learn about geography and history.

In a 2019 animated series on Netflix, Carmen Sandiego went from thief to hero, cracking tough cases and tracking down the priceless items stolen by her old teammates at the criminal organization VILE. This new game keeps that storyline running, with Carmen Sandiego working as the top sleuth at ACME. That means that for the first time since her debut, the world's most famous reformed thief is a playable character in the game that has her name. Instead of searching for one master crook, now your goal in the game is to find a team of thieves all across the globe. There are stops in countries that include Iceland, Ghana, Egypt, and Japan, so there is plenty to learn and experience.


VILE's Paper Star

Playing from Carmen's point of view, you will need to tackle tasks big and small. There are crime scenes to explore, puzzles to solve, and people to question. They often offer clues about the thieves, the items they stole, or both. The game is a race against the clock to catch up with the VILE henchmen and figure out the big mystery before the world loses another priceless item.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

KOALA MOON

Major podcast platforms

This series features relaxing bedtime stories and meditations to help you unwind or fall asleep. There are more than 500 stories to choose from, each about 30 minutes long. They are set in the magical Sleepy Forest, which is filled with koalas, platypuses, unicorns, and other animals.

APP OF THE WEEK

THE UNSTOPPABLES 2

Apple App Store, Google Play

In this game, a dog named Tofu is stuck on a rock in a river, and your job is to help a group of friends—who are on vacation in nearby mountains—work together to rescue the animal. The themes of the game are friendship, teamwork, and understanding differences.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

WHY POINTE SHOES COST THE NYC BALLET NEARLY $1 MILLION A YEAR

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-BalletShoes

Traditional ballet shoes can be worn only a couple of times before they need replacing, and dancers at the New York City Ballet go through about 7,000 pairs every year. Discover how theirs are carefully handcrafted and make their way to the stage.

GAMELOFT (2); KOALA KIDS; CEREBRAL; BUSINESS INSIDER VIA YOUTUBE

OUR FEBRUARY BOOK CLUB PICK

Safe Harbor

By Padma Venkatraman

(Nancy Paulsen Books)

This novel in verse begins when Geetha and her mom move from India to Rhode Island after her parents get divorced. Geetha misses her family and friends in India, and her new classmates make fun of her clothes, the lunch she packs, and how she mispronounces words in English. Every day before she leaves for school, Geetha plays her flute as a way to relax. After a neighbor in her apartment complex complains that the music is too loud, Geetha runs to a nearby beach and begins playing. She notices a seal pup on the shore with a fishing line around its neck. She tries to help but is not sure what to do. Miguel, a boy who attends a different school, calls a marine network to help. Geetha continues to play her flute, and the seal seems to like the music. Later, Miguel and Geetha visit the seal at the animal hospital. They become friends and take part in beach cleanups. As the seal recovers, Geetha finds herself warming up to her new life in America. Readers who play an instrument may especially appreciate the conclusion of this short and endearing book.

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *Safe Harbor*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to *contests@theweekjunior.com* with Safe Harbor in the subject line. Enter by midnight on February 21. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Safe Harbor is an animal rescue adventure that explores themes of being new to America, caring about the environment, and the power of music. Here are questions to get a conversation going with friends and family who have also read the book.

How would you welcome a student from another country to your school?

Does the book's title, *Safe Harbor*, apply to more than one character? Why or why not?

Why do you think Geetha didn't stand up for herself at school?

How does Geetha's relationship with her mother improve as the story unfolds?

Which character do you think is the best role model for Geetha? Explain your answer.

What fun fact did you learn about seals while reading the story?

JOIN *THE WEEK JUNIOR*'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video Padma Venkatraman created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our monthly book club works at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

Ask the author

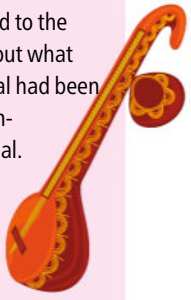
Padma Venkatraman is the award-winning author of six books for children and young adults. *Safe Harbor* is the first one she has written that draws on her previous career as an oceanographer. *The Week Junior* spoke to her about the book.

Why did you write this story?

I wanted to write about science in a way that would be fun, lyrical, and beautiful. I was scared that I couldn't do it because I had so many science facts in my head!

What inspired you?

I was walking along a beach in Rhode Island when I saw a seal in the sand. As I called for help, the seal returned to the water. Afterward, I thought about what might have happened if the seal had been hurt, and I imagined two brown-skinned children helping the seal.



Do you play an instrument?

I play the veena, an Indian string instrument, but unlike Geetha, I'm not a gifted musician!

What were your passions when you were growing up?

I was always fascinated by words, but I was also interested in mathematics and sea creatures, which led me to first pursue a career in oceanography.

Is writing poetry in English harder than in your native language?

Not for me. I used to write poems in both languages, but since I moved to the US more than 20 years ago, I've written poetry only in English.

Best advice for aspiring writers?

You need to practice. It's no different from a musician doing scales.

Favorite Super Bowl snack?

Salt and vinegar chips.

BOOK: COURTESY OF PUBLISHER; AUTHOR: CONNECTICUT HEAD SHOTS; GETTY IMAGES

Throw a Super Bowl party

Get ready for the big game with these ideas, recipes, and crafts!

The football event of the year, the Super Bowl, takes place on Sunday, February 9, and it is the perfect opportunity to throw a party. Whether you're a football fan or you're just looking forward to the commercials, there's something for everyone. Here's how to start planning your party.

Make the guest list

Will your Super Bowl party be for your family, or will you have friends over? Talk to an adult about who to invite, and count how many people you're expecting. Then reach out to guests and let them know a time to arrive before the kick-off. Encourage guests to wear their favorite team's colors!

FUN FACT
When the first Super Bowl was played in 1967, the Green Bay Packers beat the Kansas City Chiefs, 35–10.

Set up the room

Start by surveying the space where you'll be watching the game. Make sure sofas and chairs are angled so everyone has a good view of the TV. You can add some additional comfy seating for your guests by plopping large pillows on the floor. To decorate, hang homemade signs and team flags made out of recycled construction paper.

Prep the snacks

Talk with an adult about how many snacks to have on hand. Keep them nearby so no one has to miss anything (including the commercials). Classics are chicken wings, nachos, pigs in blankets, and precut vegetables like carrot and celery sticks with a variety of dips. You can also check out the fun recipes on these pages!

Play a game

You can get everyone involved in the excitement by playing a game, like Super Bowl Commercial Bingo, while you watch the action on the field. With an adult, search online for free playing cards for this year's game and print them out. The first person to cross out a row of consecutive squares wins!

Mix up sweet and salty snacks

What you'll need

For the base of the snacks, use any mix of sweet or salty treats, such as:
- Pretzels or popcorn
- Nuts
- Cereal
- Green candy-coated chocolates (like M&M's)
- Yogurt-covered or chocolate-covered raisins or peanuts
- Mini marshmallows

For the almond footballs:
- Almonds
- Sandwich bag with a twist tie or a rubber band
- Small juice glass
- 2 ounces (half a bar) white chocolate
- Scissors

For the green pretzels:
- 20 mini pretzels
- 1 cup green candy melts
- Tray or baking sheet lined with wax paper

For the pennant toothpicks:
- Green construction paper or cardstock
- Thin white paint pen (we used a "milky" pen)
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Toothpicks
- White glue and tape
- Small cups for serving

Instructions

1. **Make almond footballs:** To make a piping bag, see steps 4 and 5 in the "strawberry footballs" recipe on the next page. Fill the bag with white chocolate, then pipe a vertical line and 3 horizontal lines onto each almond.
2. **Make green pretzels:** Place candy melts in a microwave-safe bowl. Heat for 30 seconds and stir. Repeat in 15-second intervals, stirring between, until just melted. Dip each pretzel ¾ of the way into the melted candy and place on tray lined with wax paper. Let cool and set.
3. **Make pennant toothpicks:** Use a ruler and a white milky pen to draw stripes on green paper (about ¼ inch apart). Make a triangle template and use it to trace triangles all over the striped paper. Cut out the triangles and glue them to toothpicks. Tape the flags to the outside of the serving cups.
4. Toss the sweet and salty snacks into a large bowl and mix gently. Spoon the mixture into serving cups. Top with a few almond footballs, green pretzels, and a pennant toothpick.

TIP: For smoother, more dippable candy melts (or chocolate), you can stir in about ¼ teaspoon of coconut oil. Add more coconut oil in small amounts if needed.

WARNING! Ask an adult's permission before using the microwave.

Make chocolate-dipped strawberry footballs

What you'll need

- 16-ounce container of strawberries
- 2 (4 ounce) milk chocolate bars or 12 ounces chocolate chips (bars melt more smoothly than chips)
- Tray or baking sheet lined with wax paper
- Sandwich bag with a twist tie or a rubber band
- Small juice glass
- 2 ounces (half a bar) white chocolate
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Wash strawberries and pat-dry with paper towels. (The berries should be very dry before dipping.)
2. Break the chocolate bars into pieces and place in a microwave-safe bowl. Heat in the microwave for 30 seconds and stir. Repeat for 15-second intervals, stirring between, until just melted.
3. Hold each strawberry by the stem and dip into the melted chocolate. Let the excess chocolate drip off and place berry on the tray or baking sheet. Refrigerate for 5 to 10 minutes.
4. Melt white chocolate. (See step 2.)
5. To make a piping bag: Place one corner of a plastic sandwich bag in a small juice glass to hold it. Pour the melted white chocolate into the bag, then seal with a twist tie or a rubber band. Cut off the tiniest tip of the corner—just enough for a thin line of chocolate to come out.
6. Pipe a vertical white chocolate line down each strawberry, then pipe 3 horizontal lines across to create a football pattern.
7. Let the white chocolate set before serving. The strawberries can be stored at room temperature for a few hours or refrigerated in an airtight container for up to 2 days.

DID YOU KNOW? Americans eat nearly 1.5 billion chicken wings on Super Bowl Sunday.

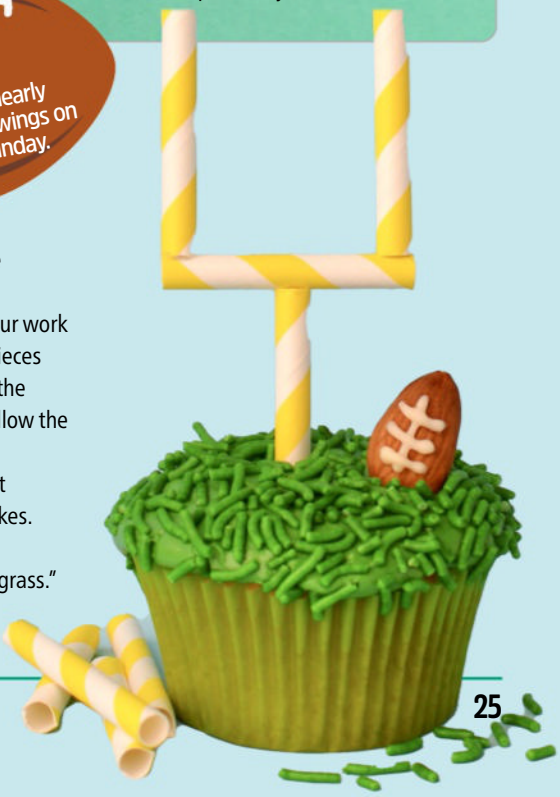
Create goalpost cupcake toppers

What you'll need

- Paper straws, 1 per cupcake
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- White glue or hot glue
- Piece of wax paper or parchment paper that is large enough for all the goalposts to dry on
- Cupcakes
- Green frosting
- Green sprinkles

Instructions

1. Use the pencil to mark 3 increments on the straw that are each 2 inches long. Cut the straw into the three 2-inch pieces you marked, then set aside the remaining smaller piece.
2. Lay down a piece of wax paper or parchment paper to protect your work surface. Use white glue or hot glue to adhere two of the 2-inch pieces to the ends of the smaller piece, forming a "U" shape. Then glue the third 2-inch piece to the bottom, centered, to create the stand. Allow the goalposts to dry on the wax paper.
3. Top cupcakes with a "grassy field": Use green food coloring to tint store-bought vanilla frosting. Then, using a knife, frost the cupcakes. Shake the green sprinkles over the green-frosted cupcakes.
4. Once the goalposts are dry, gently poke them into center of the "grass."
5. If you wish, add an almond football to the top of the cupcake. (See step 1 in the "sweet and salty snacks" recipe on opposite page.)



JODI LEVINE FOR SUPERMAKEIT (3); GETTY IMAGES (4)

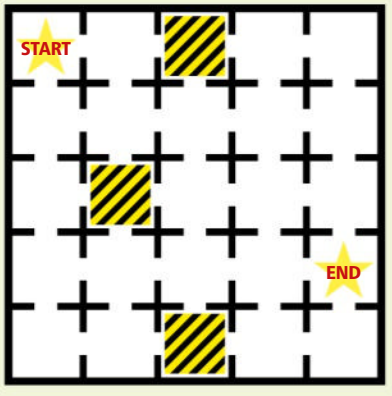
Word ladder

To change the word SHOE into the word RACK, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.

	S H O E
Look for stuff to buy ▶	
Transportation for a cruise ▶	
Lose your footing on an icy surface ▶	
Was unable to stop on an icy surface ▶	
"Easier ___ than done!" ▶	
It comes home with you from the beach ▶	
Fell to the bottom of a lake ▶	
Cloth bag that potatoes or onions come in ▶	
	R A C K

DO NOT ENTER

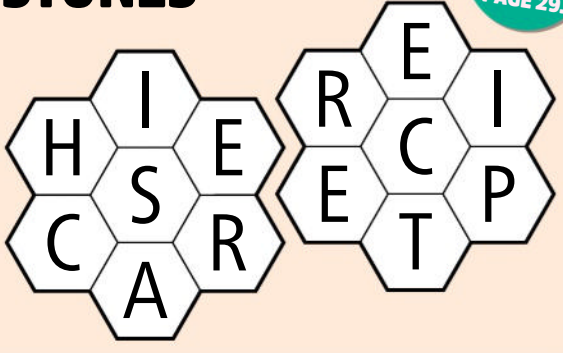
Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every box except the ones containing obstacles. Your path may not cross itself, and there is only one solution.



STEPPING STONES

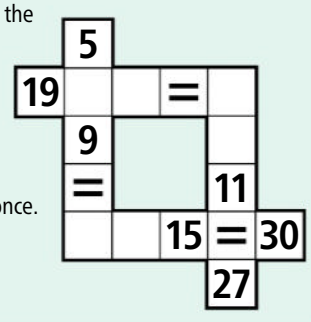
ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

Each figure hides a seven-letter word associated with shopping. To find each one, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



Crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, −, ×, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once.



Spot the difference

This is the 250th issue of *The Week Junior*! These two pictures of celebration candles appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Stepping stones hint: The second word starts with R.

She worked well under pressure.

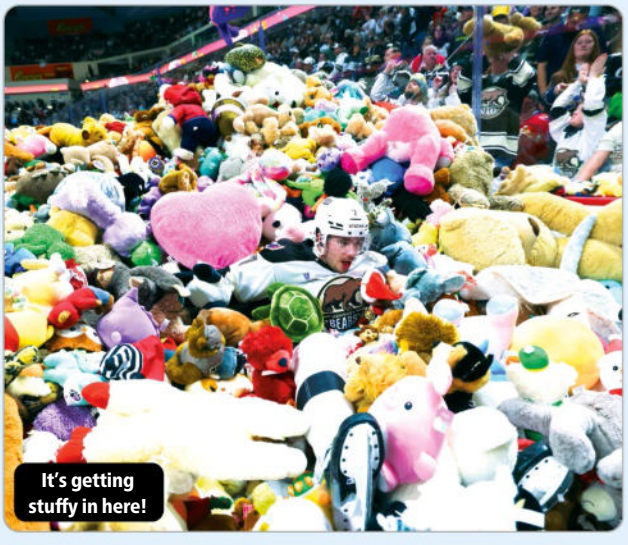
A modeling gig under the sea

A stunning underwater photo shoot earned a Guinness World Records title for model Ciara Antowski and photographer Steven Haining. The pair dove more than 163 feet down to shoot on a shipwreck off the coast of Florida, beating the previous record by 32 feet. The immense depth required special equipment, including oxygen tanks that Antowski used between poses. After dodging a tiger shark and withstanding a jellyfish sting, they safely returned to shore. "It was all about pushing the limits," said Haining.

Mr. Pink 2 brightens up the neighborhood.

Rosy rogues appear in Boston

A year after giant clown heads appeared between buildings in downtown Boston, Massachusetts, pink inflatable sculptures can be seen gazing into the city's storefronts and peeking out of alleys. One "Mr. Pink" character is climbing a tree, while another points from the roof of a hotel. Artist Philippe Katerine created the bubblegum-colored balloons as part of Winteractive, a public art exhibition designed to lift locals' spirits during the cold, dreary winter. An official said the pops of pink color are "changing people's day."



It's getting stuffy in here!

Thousands of toys hit the ice

More than 100,000 teddy bears took to the ice during a hockey game in Pennsylvania. The Teddy Bear Toss has been a tradition for 24 years. When the Hershey Bears score their first goal at a designated home game, fans throw stuffed animals onto the ice. The team describes the celebration as "sweet, cuddly mayhem." This year, players found themselves skating across the rink surrounded by a record 102,343 stuffies. Afterward, the toys were cleaned and donated to children's charities.

Is he plumbing the depths of possibility?

Making perfume out of sewage

A Scottish scientist has been experimenting with turning foul-smelling waste into perfume. Stephen Wallace from the University of Edinburgh devised the process to handle greasy blobs of solid waste from the sewers, known as fatbergs. After steaming the blobs to kill germs, he adds a special strain of bacteria that eats away at the material, producing a chemical with an aroma similar to pine trees that could be used in products such as fragrances and shampoos. Is this story true, or does it not pass the smell test?*

*Real! Stephen Wallace says his solution is not yet ready for consumer use, but he believes the bacteria could someday be added to sewers and treatment facilities to create "a more sustainable future for future generations."

STEVE HAINING; MARIANNA OROZCO/GLOBE STAFF; GETTY IMAGES (3); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

Editor's note

Congratulations to this year's winners of the American Library Association awards for excellence in children's literature (p4). What a talented group of authors and illustrators! Each year when the selections are announced, our executive editor, Mindy, who oversees our books coverage, listens excitedly to find out who won so she can quickly get the news into our pages. This year, we were thrilled when Erin Entrada Kelly's latest book, *The First State of Being*, was awarded the Newbery Medal. Her work has been showcased in *The Week Junior* several times, including last March, when we chose this book as our monthly pick for *The Week Junior* Book Club. We were pleased to discover that other writers we have featured in *The Week Junior*, including Kwame Alexander, Chanel Miller, and Jason Reynolds, had their work recognized in this year's awards as well. Bravo to all the winners who inspire a love of reading in young people!

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

A heartfelt contribution

Asha, 12, Maryland

"I set up a lemonade stand at my brother's baseball game to raise money for people affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. I felt really sad when I saw the devastation on the news, and I wanted to do something to help. A few years ago, my neighbor and I sold slime and lemonade to support the victims of Uvalde and raised $63. This time, I made $79 in profit from selling lemonade. I used my savings to buy all the supplies, like lemonade, ice, and cups, and I sent all the profits from the stand to the American Red Cross. I love reading *The Week Junior* every week, especially the science articles, and I hope my efforts can make a difference in the world."

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Where do math teachers go on vacation?

Times Square

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Partnership with Native Americans

This organization helps people in remote Native American communities have a brighter future. It provides students with learning resources, scholarships, and school supplies to help them succeed. It also gives food to the elderly. The group's programs benefit about 200,000 Native Americans in nine states each year. Find out more at nativepartnership.org.

READER RECOMMENDS

Vote for your favorite books!

Have you read any books you've enjoyed so much you wish all kids knew about them? Contribute to our "50 Books Kids Love Most" list for 2025! The list, with quotes from readers, will be published in *The Week Junior* in June. We're looking for at least 100 kids to fill out our voting form. If you'd like to vote, have an adult email us at *hello@theweekjunior.com* with Books Kids Love in the subject line, and we'll send the form to you. Happy reading!

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

"We visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial and Museum in Japan. We hope for all wars to end soon." Sarah, 11, and Tenyuu, 9, California

"I made the pizza dip from *The Week Junior*, and it was so good." McKenzie, 9, Tennessee

"I love *The Week Junior*! I always read it when I'm bored." Fergus, 10, Alaska

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Julie Beeby**

School: **Edison Elementary School**

"Ms. Beeby is kind and generous, and she always helps me figure out a word. Whenever I need help, she's there for me. If she says you'll get a reward for answering a question, she always gives you that reward. She's fair and patient. That's why I think she's a great teacher."

Campbell, 8, Colorado

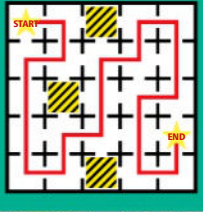
Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY PWNA

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word ladder
SHOE
SHOP
SHIP
SLIP
SLID
SAID
SAND
SANK
SACK
RACK

Stepping stones
cashier, receipt



		5		
19	×	2	=	38
9				−
=				11
45	−	15	=	30
		27		

Quiz answers (from page 30) **1** a) 1962 **2** The Philadelphia Eagles **3** a) Emperor **4** ACME **5** False. The dogs were trained to sit down if they smelled cancer. **6** b) Flute **7** b) Mango **8** False. It received 10 nominations. **9** Ichiro Suzuki **10** c) *SpongeBob SquarePants* **11** False. It found that they "remember" water. **12** b) Amber Glenn **13** The ReefLine **14** True **15** a) Boston

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 In which year did Spider-Man make his comic book debut?

a) 1962 b) 1985 c) 1999

a☐ b☐ c☐

2 What NFL team does star running back Saquon Barkley play for?

3 A robot named ECHO is helping researchers study which species of penguins?

a) Emperor

b) King

c) Rockhopper

a☐ b☐ c☐

4 In the new video game Carmen Sandiego, what detective agency does Carmen work for?

5 True or false? Scientists trained dogs to roll over if they smelled cancer in samples of people's breath.

True☐ False☐

6 In the book *Safe Harbor*, what instrument does Geetha play to relax?

a) Clarinet b) Flute c) Trumpet

a☐ b☐ c☐

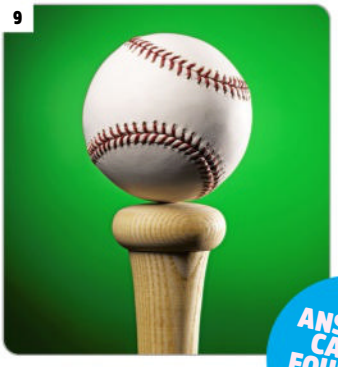
7 Experts recently found a type of ginger with a root that smells like what fruit?

a) Kiwi b) Mango c) Pineapple

a☐ b☐ c☐

8 True or false? The movie musical *Wicked* received three Academy Award nominations in total.

True☐ False☐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ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

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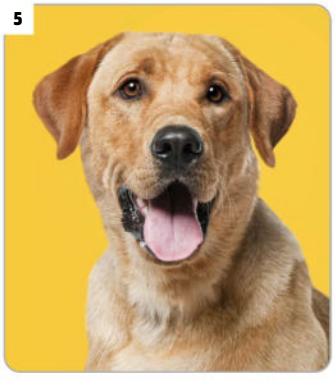
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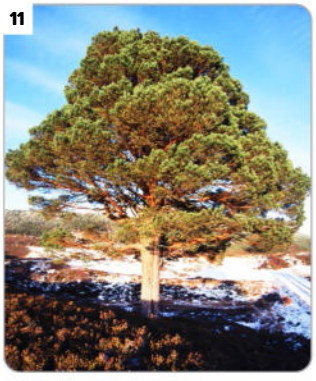
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9 What baseball player holds the MLB record for most hits in a season?

10 The US Postal Service has revealed a new collection of stamps from what children's television series?

a) *Hey Arnold!*

b) *Rugrats*

c) *SpongeBob SquarePants*

a☐ b☐ c☐

11 True or false? A recent study on Scots pine trees in Switzerland found that they "remember" sunlight.

True☐ False☐

12 Who won the women's singles competition at the US Figure Skating National Championships?

a) Alysa Liu

b) Amber Glenn

c) Bradie Tennell

a☐ b☐ c☐

13 What is the name of the new underwater sculpture and snorkel park coming to Miami Beach, Florida?

14 True or false? Fifth grader Rosie Lanenga recently took office as Kid Governor of Oregon.

True☐ False☐

15 Large, inflatable pink sculptures have started appearing in what US city?

a) Boston

b) Chicago

c) Philadelphia

a☐ b☐ c☐

THE WEEK Junior

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Head of growth marketing: Colleen Shire Ho
Digital marketing director: Katie Hay
Publisher: Stevie Lee (*stevie.lee@futurenet.com*)
Account director: Mary Gallagher (*mary.gallagher@futurenet.com*)
US manufacturing and distribution manager: Lori Crook
Operations manager: Cassandra Mondonedo

Reader submissions: *hello@theweekjunior.com*
Customer service: *TWJcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com*
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Meet our Spring 2025 Junior Council members!

Zina, age 8, Massachusetts

Gavin, age 9, Oregon

Annabelle, age 10, Mississippi

Lincoln, age 10, Virginia

Kiran, age 10, California

Junior Council THE WEEK Junior

Isabella, age 10, Rhode Island

Malaika, age 12, Virginia

In September, we opened applications for our sixth Junior Council class. The response from children across the US was amazing, and each application was terrific! It was a challenge to make a decision. We are excited for the 12 children shown here to join the Council and have their voices heard. Their work will appear in a future issue of the magazine. To find out more about Junior Council and be the first to know about future applications, visit our website at **juniorcouncil.theweekjunior.com**.

William, age 13, Massachusetts

Margot, age 10, Wisconsin

Tyler, age 10, Ohio

Seraphina, age 10, New York

Orion, age 11, Minnesota

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